

**A PRIMER OF ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY—Third Edition, thoroughly revised**—George E. Burch, M.D., Henderson Professor of Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine, and Travis Winsor, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, U.S.C. School of Medicine. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1955. 286 pages, 281 illustrations, \$5.00.

This book was one of the first to offer the student some idea as to *why* the deflections go up or down, instead of only presenting electrocardiographic patterns to memorize. This commendable method, based here on the dipole theory, has been carried into the third edition. From a graphic description of a dipole and its application to the electrocardiogram, the book moves progressively—although not entirely in an orderly way—through the five chapters to sections on vector cardiography and ventricular gradient. Professing the necessity for dogmatism in a primer, the material is so presented. A fair balance is struck, although for example the text on the Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome is twice as long as that of left ventricular hypertrophy. The effect of cooling and potassium on the polarized membrane and similar material might be relegated to small print. The illustrations are excellent, but the mix-up of figures and legends from pages 145 to 150 is inexcusable. The index is short but adequate. The chapter on Disorders of the Heart Beat is very good. For brevity and completeness, a majority of beginners turn to this text and will continue to do so.

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**CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY—Third Edition, Revised**—Clinton H. Thienes, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Institute of Medical Research, Huntington Memorial Hospital; and Thomas J. Haley, Ph.D., Chief of the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Atomic Energy Project, and Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, UCLA School of Medicine. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1955. 475 pages, \$6.50.

The preface of this book indicates that it is intended for the classroom and for the general practitioner. The major toxic action of poisons has determined their grouping, actually on the basis of their systemic action. For example—the convulsants are considered in Section I, the central nervous system depressants in Section II, the peripherally acting nerve poisons, poisons acting on nerve trunks, ganglia and nerve endings in Section III, the muscle poisons in Section IV, the protoplasmic poisons in Section V, the blood and hematopoietic poisons in Section VI. Other sections are devoted to Principles of Treatment (of poisoning), Outline of Symptom Diagnosis, and Chemical Diagnosis of Poisoning. It is in the latter sections that the practitioner might find greatest help.

The level of excellence of previous editions is maintained throughout the third revision.

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**DISEASES OF THE EAR, NOSE, AND THROAT IN CHILDREN**—T. G. Wilson, M.B., B.Ch., Litt.D., F.R.C.S.I., M.R.I.A., Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgeon, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, National Children's Hospital, Dublin. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1955. 307 pages, \$12.00.

This is an excellent textbook. The information is surprisingly current and extremely well selected. Reference to other sources, for confirmation or elaboration, is generous but is neither boring nor distracting.

The preface is short, to the point, and should be read. It contains information that this is the first textbook to be written on diseases of the ear, nose and throat in children. The table of contents is satisfactory. The index is quite complete. This completeness was slightly confusing at first, but a real pleasure later. The illustrations are superior or good (several are the work of the author). Two reproductions of x-ray films should have been retouched or, by preference, replaced with examples showing more contrast.

Chapters 6, 7 and 8 dealing with deafness, training and education of the deaf child and defective speech are espe-

cially worthwhile. The diagram outlining the postnatal development of the accessory nasal sinuses is well worth several moments of study. The discussion of laryngotracheal bronchitis is clear-cut, concise, and sound in all respects.

One of the few points for disagreement is the recommendation that all acute accessory nasal sinusitis, acute pharyngitis, and tonsillitis be subjected to immediate energetic antibiotic treatment. This objection is presented on the bases that it is not good medicine and certainly not good teaching. Such a recommendation can only add to the too prevalent overuse and abuse of the antimicrobials. The fact that the reviewer does not always agree with the author is quite beside the point and does not in any way influence his appreciation and evaluation of this textbook.

This textbook is recommended, without qualification, as required reading for all otolaryngologists, pediatricians, general practitioners and others who have to deal with diseases of the ear, nose and throat in children.

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**MANAGEMENT OF DISORDERS OF THE AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM**—Louis T. Palumbo, M.D., Chief, Surgical Service, V. A. Hospital, Des Moines. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago, 1955. 186 pages, \$5.00.

This small book presents a short description of the anatomy and physiology of the autonomic nervous system, followed by an account of a great variety of disorders that may be treated by pharmacological or surgical intervention with this portion of the nervous system. Some of the anatomical and physiological concepts are not those generally accepted, nor is adequate reference made to the work on which the concept is based. The disorders that may be helped by sympathectomy are catalogued, without any very critical appraisal of the evidence for or against the procedure. Apparently a removal of a major part of the autonomic system is compatible with fairly normal function of the organism, so that this tissue joins the company of the tonsil and the vermiform appendix in popularity with the surgeon. Only time will tell the value of such extirpations, but it is safe to guess that they will be of value in many fewer disease conditions than are catalogued in this book.

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**PATHOLOGY FOR THE SURGEON—Seventh Edition**—William Boyd, M.D.(Edin.), Dipl. Psychiat.(Edin.), F.R.C.S.(Canada), F.R.C.P.(Lond.), M.R.C.P.(Edin.), F.R.S.(Canada), LL.D.(Sask.), D.Sc.(Man.), M.D.(Oslo), Lecturer on the Humanities in Medicine, The University of Toronto, Visiting Professor of Pathology, The University of Alabama, and Formerly Professor of Pathology, The University of Manitoba, The University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1955. 737 pages, 547 illustrations including 10 in color, \$12.50.

This seventh edition of a well known work is in reality a new book, containing much that has been rewritten, and even possessing a modified title, which previously was "Surgical Pathology." The purpose of this thorough revision has been to renovate the approach to surgical diseases which have changed greatly in the thirty years since the first edition. The breadth of interest of the surgeon has increased to include nearly every part of pathology, and as a result there is now no readily distinguishable segment of pathology which can justifiably be called surgical in contrast to the rest of pathology. Hence the original name of the book has been changed.

The book is designed for surgeons rather than pathologists, and it is written with the aim of emphasizing the usefulness of knowledge concerning the nature of disease. Dr. Boyd's enjoyable style, so conspicuous in his various textbooks of pathology, has not suffered by the changes in this edition. The aim of providing for the surgeon a broad survey of pathology has been achieved. Illustrations are abundant, well chosen and technically good.